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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Developments in the People's Party

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1. The question of Sramek's successor and the future leadership of the People's Party is resolving itself into an intense struggle in party circles behind the scenes, with two definite factions gradually emerging; one in favor of Hala, the other in favor of Prochazka.
2. Those who favor Hala are mostly the old membership of the pre-war People's Party, generally the Moravian wing. They argue that only with Hala as its leader will there be any certainty that the Party will continue to follow the policy founded by Sramek and be led in a progressive way.
3. Those who favor Prochazka consist mostly of people who before the war belonged to other right wing parties such as the National Democrats, (the former Kramar followers) and the Republican Agrarian Party (Svehla-Beran). They maintain that Hala is a weak politician who on most important issues succumbs to the Communists, and maintain that he is the party's Fierlinger, a man without backbone, who, once in charge of the party, would lead more or less along a course desired by the Communists.
4. Prochazka's followers are aware of the fact that he lacks talent as a politician, and they feel that he should lead the party with a committee of about eight people, who would in fact run the party. In the meantime, Prochazka's principal advisor is a certain Mr. Jehliska, who was an Agrarian before the war and is known for his anti-semitic background. He not only directs all Prochazka's activities, but writes all his speeches, and conducts his campaign within and outside the party, and tries to influence leading party politicians, mainly in Parliament, to side with Prochazka.
5. A showdown between Hala and Prochazka was expected to take place soon. One of the decisive factors would be the decision of Banda Chudoba, a People's Party deputy, who has the greatest influence with the powerful youth movement of the Party. Chudoba's background and his very strong anti-Communist views seem to indicate that he would decide for Prochazka, and he had intimated in talks with party leaders that he would make his decision in June.

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~~Comment:~~ No further information on the outcome of the disagreement within the People's Party is yet available.)

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